

Applicant: Yang Chin Cheng.
Application No. 10/713,762
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REMARKS

Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 10-12, 17-19, 21-24, 27 and 28, and have cancelled claim 7. Care has been taken to avoid adding new matter. Claims 1, 2, 8-12, 17-19, 21-24 and 27-29 are presently pending in the application.

The Office Action objected to the specification for allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter, requiring that Applicant modify the specification to provide an alleged lack of support for the limitation of original claim 28 of removing the patterned photoresist by ozone plasma. The Office Action also rejected claims 24 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the inventor regards as the invention. In response, Applicant has attended to these matters with the amendments as set forth herein, and accordingly requests that the objection and rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn..

The Office Action rejected claims 1-2, 7, 10-11, 17-18, 21, 23-24 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Liao (U.S. Patent No. 6,294,314). Claims 12 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Liao in view of Mimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,751,170). The Examiner further rejected claims 1-2, 7, 10-12, 17-18, 21-24, 27 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Maimon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,589,714) in view of McColgin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,931,351). Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Maimon et al. and McColgin et al. in further view of Mimura et al. Claims 8-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Liao or over Maimon et al. in view of McColgin et al., in further view of Merritt et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0049071) or Odaka et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0224560). Claim 28 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Maimon et al. in view of McColgin et al., in further view of Chooi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,350,675).

Regarding these rejections, Applicants would like to thank Examiner Thanhha S. Pham for the multiple Examiner Interviews conducted with Applicants' representative, Kenton R. Mullins, on May 22, 2006. In a final one of those discussions, it was indicated by Examiner Pham that the independent claims as presently amended would appear to distinguish over the prior art of record. It was suggested that submission of the current

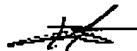
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Amendment by Applicant would result in withdrawal of all of the outstanding prior-art rejections to the extent the claims reflect the content discussed and informally submitted to Examiner Pham, which they do. Examiner Pham reserved the right to conduct an update search. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with Applicant's representative would be helpful to advance the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



May 22, 2006

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